Dredging in Indian Ports by Foreign Operators

877. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the dredging is done in Indian ports by foreign operators;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total turnover in Indian rupees for the last three years;

(c) whether it is alleged that Indian dredging operators are denied level playing fields by port authorities by including special clauses in tender documents; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) For certain specialized jobs, the past experience and financial capacity of the prospective bidders is included as a condition for their qualification for participating in the tender process. This is done to ensure selection of competent bidders. There is no intention of denying level playing fields to the Indian Companies.

National Waterways in the country

†878. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Waterways in the country;

(b) the number of such waterways which are being utilised for transportation and are equipped with basic facilities; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of cities in the country which are connected by waterways, so far, particularly from the commercial point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are three National Waterways namely:

(i) National Waterway No. 1: The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allhabad to Haldia;

(ii) National Waterway No. 2: The Brahamputra from Dhubri to Sadiya; and

(iii) National Waterway No. 3: The West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam alongwith Udyogmandal and Champakkara canals.

(b) All the three National Waterways are being utilized for transportation and these waterways are equipped with some basic facilities.

(c) The National Waterway No. 1 connects Allahabad, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Patna in Bihar and Kolkatta in West Bengal. Guwahati is connected through the National Waterway No. 2 in Assam. The National Waterway No. 3 connects Kochi in Kerala.

Increasing Number of Beggars in NCT of Delhi

879. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a tremendous increase of beggars in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these beggars are generally seen begging at the various cross-roads of NCT of Delhi;

(c) if so, whether Government plan to curb this nuisance value of beggars on Delhi roads;

(d) whether Government propose to rehabilitate the beggars; and